

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Sally's month in review

AROUND THE BARCOO SHIRE

**Community Notices and News** 

COMMUNITY EVENTS

End of year school concerts and presentations





# BARCOO



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#### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Community Consultation Documents and feedback form.
- Regional Driving Fact Sheet

Please send ALL

Newsletter Content to:
newsletter@barcoo.qld.gov.au



#### **Contact Council**

Jundah Council Office Phone: (07) 4658 6900 Email: shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Mayor Sally O'Neil: 0424 791 449 sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Roger Batt: 0448 585 942 roger.batt@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Andrew Miller: 0428 437 975 andrew.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Ingrid Miller:0467 566 728 ingrid.miller@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Cr Dianne Pidgeon: 0458 585 921 dianne.pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au



# 

#### WITH SALLY O'NEIL

Hello Everyone

Hope all is well. Unfortunately, I am not able to talk rain this month though there have been storms around, no decent falls to speak of.



Thank you to the community members who were able to attend the community consultation, Council are collating the concerns and queries and a report will be presented to the December Council meeting. Each issue will be dealt with on it's merits and advice will be provided back to the community in the near future. Those of you who were unable to attend will find the handout attached to this newsletter which gives opportunity for queries or concerns to be raised by either email or mail. Responses would need to be to council by the 11th December 2020.

The community should have received a notice regarding the Council auction of surplus plant and equipment. The notice had a link to the website where items can be viewed with the auction beginning 24 November and closing 26 November. This was a great success, thank you to everyone who bid.

The following is the externally funded project status update:

Stonehenge tennis court - Yet to commence

Jundah roadhouse culverts - Culverts complete, kerb and channel remaining

Windorah K&C and culverts – Works in progress

Connemarra Rd bridge replacement – Start date is scheduled for 21 March 2021

Stonehenge hall external painting - yet to commence

Windorah water treatment plant - Design of plant in progress

Jundah Hall – Works in progress

Windorah RFS/SES shed – 90% complete

Jundah Information Centre and Post Office upgrade – complete

Reseals – Stonehenge airstrip and Windorah streets - complete

McPhellemay's crossing – Due to recent falls to the north of the shire Cooper's Creek has had a run, Council resolved to put the project on hold until after the wet season.



Jundah Roadhouse Culverts

The following is an update of our work crews and their progress on roads around the Shire. Ronnie Rayment's crew are currently on Arrabury Rd completing 2019 flood damage and Council re-sheet. Jason Beilby's crew are currently on Palparara Davenport Road performing 2019 flood damage. The contractor crew are doing medium formation grading on the Windorah Bedourie Rd. The maintenance grader is currently on Connemara Rd working back towards Juno. If there are sections of roads requiring immediate attention, please notify the Council.

Don't forget, Council meetings are open to the public and all community members are welcome. Council meetings are rotated around the three towns and we notify via an online flyer of upcoming Council meeting dates and times. The December Council meeting will be held in Jundah.

I wish you all well and will give you another in the new year. Please don't hesitate to contact me on the details below if you have any queries or concerns.

Regards Sally

Mayor Barcoo Shire Council - sally.oneil@barcoo.qld.gov.au Mobile: 0424 791 449

# EMPLOYEE NEWS

# Joelene

#### See you soon Joelene!

Joelene started with Council in December 2019 moving to Jundah from Barcaldine after working with George Bourne & Associates looking after the ORRTG & RAPADWSA. Although not having any local government experience her role with GBA had her liaising closely with Mayors and CEO's of the RAPAD Councils which spurred a real interest in applying for positions with local councils. After a short handover with Zoe Barron, Joelene was thrown in the deep end attending Council meetings and gaining an understanding of Local Government operations very quickly. She has fitted in really well at Barcoo Shire Council and to life in Jundah. We wish her well for the birth of her son, her maternity leave that commenced on 20/11/2020 and look forward to seeing back at Council in late 2021.

During Joelene's leave Council has employed Mandy Taylor formerly of Mitchell as Executive Assistant. Mandy comes to Barcoo having worked at Boulia Shire and Maranoa Regional Councils and we take this opportunity to welcome her to the Shire administration team.

#### **Welcome Mandy!**

A little about myself. I have previously worked in Local Government, first at Boulia then at Maranoa Regional Council. My late husband and I worked on a few cattle properties in outback Queensland, though our last fixed address was in Mitchell. However for the last three years I have been very fortunate to have been able to do some serious travelling, both around Australia in a Motorhome and to a few Countries overseas. Some of the countries I visited were, America, especially wanted to see the Grand Canyon. China to see the Pandas, both the north and south Islands of New Zealand, Fiji, Norfolk Island and my most recent trip was a cruise early in the year to South Africa. I have two adult sons, one married with three gorgeous children who I adore and the other son is in the defence force. Other than travel, my favourite pastimes are sewing and gardening.



I look forward to working in Jundah for the next twelve months and hopefully getting to know more about the Heart of the Channel Country.



#### **Windorah Information Centre**

Unfortunately November saw us farewell Fern Reynolds from the Windorah Information Centre. This month we have however welcomed 2 new casual staff to the centre to support existing staff members. If you are in the area please call in and say hello to our new employees Abby Geiger and Victoria Edwards.

Abby and Victoria have been in the area for numerous years and are both looking forward to contributing to our information services.

#### **Jundah Roadhouse**

Matt, Shannon and Piper are moving on from Roadhouse this month, we wish them all the best in all their future endeavours. With this the Jundah Roadhouse sees some new faces move to the Shire. Please make Simon, Jodie and Rae feel welcome. Also currently working in the roadhouse we have locals Courtney Lees, Lois Barr, Julie Barr-Richards and Jack Pitman.



Simon & Jodie

# POLICE NEWS



Traffic offences continue to be a serious concern. On Australian roads, about 1300 people die and 33,000 more are seriously injured each year on Australian roads. The subsequent estimated cost of road trauma to the Australian community is about \$27 billion a year (Accident Research Centre Newsletter, 2015)

The following information has been obtained from research conducted by The University of Adelaide, In depth research into rural road crashes, Baldock, MRJ., Kloeden CN., McLean, AJ.

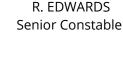
Australian rural road crashes tend to be severe. In the study sample of 236 rural road crashes to which an ambulance was called, over 55 per cent resulted in injuries severe enough to be fatal or require hospital admission for one or more of the vehicle occupants involved. One in every 10 vehicle occupants died as a result of injuries sustained in the crashes and one in every four was admitted to hospital.

With regard to the drivers, the majority were male, and over 17 per cent were not in possession of a full driver's licence at the time of the crash

The most common type of crash involved a single vehicle, accounting for nearly 45 per cent of the sample. The analysis of single vehicle crashes revealed an over representation of right curved sections of road, young, inexperienced drivers and drunk drivers.

For National; Road Safety Week, Police will be targeting the Fatal 5, (Seatbelts, Inattention, Fatigue, Speed and Drink and Drug Driving.

It is our aim to ensure that all road users are kept safe on the roads.





Dust makes it hard to see. Please slow down! Image from Street Smarts QLD

# **COMMUNITY NOTICES**





#### CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Council wish to advise residents that the Jundah Administration Office, Visitor Information Centre's and Libraries of Jundah, Stonehenge and Windorah will be closed for the Christmas period from 5pm Friday 18 December 2020 and will resume normal business from Monday 4 January 2021.

The Jundah Roadhouse will be closed on Friday 25 December 2020, Christmas Day. Due to expected decreased patronage between Christmas and New Year, Council may consider reducing opening hours of the Jundah Roadhouse over this period. Any changes to opening hours during this period will be communicated through Barcoo Information and social media closer to the time.

During this closure, urgent matters can be dealt with by contacting Council on (07) 4658 6900. Council wishes all residents a safe and enjoyable festive break.

Should you require further clarification or information, please do not hesitate to contact Council on telephone (07) 4658 6900 or via email shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au



## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

# **Friendly Reminder for Overdue Rates**

Barcoo Shire Council issued rates for the period 1/07/2020 to 31/12/2020 on the 11th September 2020.

The Discount date was 9th October 2020.

All unpaid rates will now be accumulating compound interest at 8.53%. Payments may be made at the Administration Office Jundah, by direct bank payment, Bpay, or telephone.

If you have any concerns about your rates please contact Kerri Pidgeon Rates/ Accounts receivable Officer 46586910 or email Kerri.Pidgeon@barcoo.qld.gov.au

# 2021 Meeting Schedule Barcoo Shire Council Ordinary Meeting Dates

In accordance with Section 254B of the Local Government Regulation 2012, Barcoo Shire Council Ordinary Meetings are held generally on the third Wednesday of the month at various locations within our Shire, commencing at 8:00am. Please be aware that Ordinary Meetings are open to the public. Barcoo Shire Council encourages community engagement and interest, and we hope to see members of the community at our Council meetings.

Month	Day/Date	Location	
January	Wednesday, 20 January	Jundah Council Chambers	
February	Wednesday, 17 February	Stonehenge Community Centre	
March	Wednesday, 17 March	Jundah Council Chambers	
April	Wednesday, 21 April	Jundah Council Chambers	
May	Wednesday, 19 May	Windorah Community Centre	
June	Wednesday, 16 June	Jundah Council Chambers	
July	Wednesday, 21 July	Jundah Council Chambers	
August	Wednesday, 18 August	Stonehenge Community Centre	
September	Wednesday, 15 September	Jundah Council Chambers	
October	Wednesday, 27 October	Jundah Council Chambers	
November	Wednesday, 17 November	Windorah Community Centre	
December	Wednesday, 15 December	Jundah Council Chambers	

Lindsay 'Yuruga Stn', Sue Pratt 'Ban Ban Stn'.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

# **Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon**

Melbourne Cup ladies day champagne luncheon was hosted by Paula - Stonehenge Hotel Manger, with help from SSS mum Beck Eggerling. Ladies from in and around Stonehenge had the rare opportunity to pop on a frock and powder their noses for an afternoon of socialising. The smiles say it all of the day had.



L-R: Charmaine Ellis 'Warbreccan Stn', Steph Batt 'Eldwick Stn', Susan McClymont 'Sunnyside Stn'.



Stonehenge kiddies having a FUN day out.

# **COMMUNITY NOTICES**



### FREE VOLUNTEERS AND EVENTS TRAINING PROGRAM

Queensland's tourism industry has been doing it tough over the past few years, particularly in recent times due to COVID-19. Both natural and economic disasters have hit the industry hard, leaving many without work or income. As issues have evolved in North and Far North Queensland, TAFE Queensland has evolved with them. To help the industry recover, The Volunteers and Events Training Program is offering FREE online training for volunteer and paid event organisers. This FREE online training program will provide high-level skills in areas relating to tourism, enabling participants build their customer service, resilience and leadership skills. Designed to boost skills in the events sector, the program aims to help reinvigorate the tourism industry in North and Far North Queensland. The program is delivered by TAFE Queensland and jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

To take part in this great training and development opportunity, register your interest today. https://go.tafeqld.edu.au/index.php/email/emailWebview



# **Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

2021 Australia Day Awards
Nomination Close: 5:00pm Friday 4 December 2020

Categories:

Citizen of the Year
Young Citizen of the Year

Community Event of the Year

Volunteer of the Year

Senior Sports Award

Junior Sports Award

**Cultural Award** 

For further information: Phone: 46586900 Email: shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au

Website: www.barcoo.qld.gov.au

# **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

# JOIN US AT OUR MO-MENT MO PARTY



Where: Jundah Hotel

When: 4th December

Time: 5pm onwards

Great Shave Off Auction 7pm



Let's raise the roof while raising funds and awareness for men's health.



## JUNDAH STATE SCHOOL NEWS

# Due to the Jundah State School October news not making last months newsletter we have included it in this months edition. ENJOY!

#### October news:

Welcome everyone, this is certainly a very busy time of year. We are planning and practicing for the school concert on Saturday 21st November. Everyone is welcome, so please come along and enjoy the evening with the students. This year is also very special as we have a student graduating.

This term we are doing a Poetry unit for English and students have been working on rhyming and various other poetry techniques. Students will read and analyse a poem, adapt the poem and present their adaptation for their assessment. In Maths, we are continuing with number. Money and fractions are the other two areas we will be working on this term. There is a shop set up in the classroom and the students are getting very good at 'paying' to check out at the end of a session. Fractions are always more interesting when smarties are involved and is very hand on with the cutting up of shapes and food items.

We are currently working on two major pieces of work. The Student Code of Conduct, which replaces the previous Behaviour Management Plan and the CARF, Curriculum and Reporting Framework. Both documents are a requirement of the departments and are used to guide the school with the implementation of the departments policies and procedures.

The school has also had many visitors: The guidance officer, the lead principal and teacher from the CLaW and Mr Cavill, always a favourite, for the last religion lesson for the year. The teacher from the CLaW conducted a classroom profile on a lesson and the results were very high and positive. This week, Outback Futures will visit again and work with the students with their speech and with the groups on social skills.

Miss Roisin, who has been the cluster teacher for Jundah and Windorah for the last four years, has received a transfer to Longreach for next year. Roisin has been a valuable member of staff who has contributed to the students' education and progress both professionally and personally. She has taught Science, Music and LOTE Japanese to all the students and then has taught English, Maths and HASS at different times. We all wish Roisin the very best and success in her next adventure.

The P&C, thanks to the president, held a very successful pie drive. The restoration of the original bell have also been put into place. The selling of sweep tickets for the Melbourne Cup is also happening.

The school has a book fair at the moment and people have been taking advantage of having the books to choose from for their Christmas shopping.

This term will finish on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 and Term 1 2021 will start on Wednesday 27th January 2021.

Friday 30th October was World Teachers' Day – this is a day to celebrate all the school staff and the work they do in educating the students of today.

Yours in education Chris Volker Principal



## **JUNDAH STATE SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **November news:**

Hello Everyone. This will be the last news item from Jundah State School for this year. It has been a very different year and the end of the school year is approaching very quickly. On Saturday night we held our concert and graduation for the year. Lillie is graduating, Piper is leaving the district and Miss Roisin is going to Longreach. It was a very enjoyable evening and Rotary again provided a BBQ meal. Congratulations to the students who were awarded for their effort and excellent results.









We are busy getting assessments completed and report cards written as well as all the end of year tasks done. Students are working to write their adaptation of a poem, that they will then present to the class. They will be doing some Christmas art and activities in this last week. A swim day, cooking day and break up day are planned for the last three days of the term.

Outback Futures visited and Steve Cavill visited with the last religious instruction lesson for the year. The CLaW also visited the school.

Next year we will welcome new students and new staff. At this stage there will be no Kindy students and this will be the first time since we started the Kindy program.

We all at Jundah State School wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Safe travels and we hope you enjoy the time with family and friends over the festive season. We look forward to catching up in 2021.

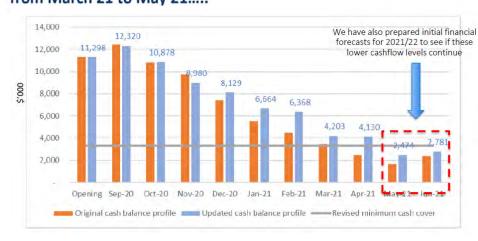
# **Barcoo Shire Council**

Community Consultation November 2020



# **Budget Update**

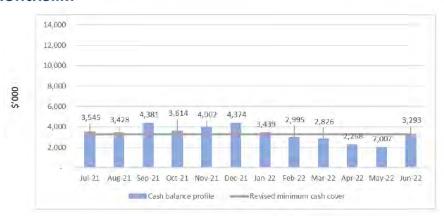
Refinement of forecasts have moved the forecast cashflow constraints from March 21 to May 21.....





# **Budget Update**

The cash balance for council remains positive in 21/22, however it is below the desired minimum cash level in several months.....





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

- Election and Declaration of new Councillors in April 2020.
- Implementation of Local Disaster Management Plan & Sub-Plans, October 2019.
- Leasing of the Batching Plant.
- Installation of Rural addressing signage within the Barcoo Shire.





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

#### Jundah Roadhouse

- The Roadhouse project was completed by numerous Council employees and Contractors within the Central West Region.
- The Roadhouse was partially funded through Queensland Government's Building our Regions Program & Federal Government Drought Communities Program.





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

- Completion of \$3,092,000 in 2018 flood damage works by 30/06/2020.
- Funded through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).
- Council comprises of 2 Work Crews and 1 Contractor Crew to complete this works





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

- Completion of \$3,265,000 in 2019 flood damage works by 30/06/2020.
- Funded through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA).
- Council comprises of 2 Work Crews and 1 Contractor Crew to complete this works.





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

 Installed Flood Warning Gauges at Powells Creek, Jundah & Mayne River.





# 2019/2020 Key Highlights

- Upgrades to the Windorah SES/RFS Shed.
- Partially funded through Get Ready Funding, Stronger Communities Programme and Drought Communities Program.





Infrastructure Projects 2020/2021

- Water Treatment Plant in Windorah (COVID-19 Works for Queensland State and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program).
- Air Scouring / Pigging (Joint procured project through the RAPAD Water & Sewerage Alliance (RAPADWSA), partially junded by the Local Government Association of Queensland).
- Reservoir Cleaning (Joint procured project through the RAPAD Water & Sewerage Alliance (RAPADWSA), partially funded by the Local Government Association of Queensland).
- Renovations at the Jundah Visitor Information Centre & Post Office (Works for Queensland – State).
- Renovations at the Jundah Town Hall (Works for Queensland State).
- Jundah Roadhouse Culverts (Drought Communities Program).





Infrastructure Projects 2020/2021

- Windorah Kerb & Channeling and Culverts (Drought Communities Program, TIDS Funding and Works for Queensland).
- McPhellemay's Crossing (Disaster Resilience Funding Arrangements and Drought Communities Program).
- Connemara Road Bridge Replacement (Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program).
- Stonehenge Hall External Painting (Works for Queensland).
- · Upgrades to the Jundah SES/RFS Facility (Get Ready Funding).
- Upgrade of the Stonehenge Tennis Court (Drought Communities Program).





# **Other Projects**

- Corporate Plan review.
- Asset Management Plan (Roads completed and buildings/water currently being reviewed).
- · Cost of Services review.
- Local Disaster Management Plan (LDMP) & Sub-Plan Annual review
- Fatigue Management Training for National Heavy Vehicle Accreditation Scheme compliance



#### **Community Engagement Forum – November 2020**

Topic – Financial Sustainability

#### **Background**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at a Special Meeting Council approved the budget for the financial year 2020/21. The budget is available to the public on Council's website.
- The budget highlighted a decreasing cash position with a projected overdraft of \$570K as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- The decrease to a lack of cash situation has been "hidden" from Council due to the high level of grant funding that the organisation has had over past years. From my observations this is a common problem across local government.
- Council has not had a system of managing visibility on "restricted cash", ie: cash that is provided for grant projects.
- The CEO arranged Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) to assist in investigating the cash flow situation. QTC arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- QTC have undertaken a wide-ranging review on the current year budget forecast and subsequent year. This has resulted in an improved cash flow forecast included in the handout, which shows an improved cash position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 now projected to be \$2.781M, increasing slightly to \$3.293M as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- However, Council's cash position during 21/22 remains below the desired minimum cash level in several months.

#### **Current Status**

- Largely this has resulted in the deferment of some capital projects into future years to
  flatten the cash flow effect. However, there are some capital projects which have also been
  cancelled. This is the subject of a council report for the Ordinary November Council
  Meeting.
- QTC have recommended Council has a working capital facility so it can safeguard payments required to contractors / suppliers and employees over the next two years.
- QTC have also recommended a Business Improvement Program over the next 12 18 months which will cover some 20 areas of improvement. Some of the items include;
  - o Review of Rating and Charges
  - o Services Review
  - o Asset Management Gap Analysis

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- o Corporate Plan Update
- o Risk Management Review
- Budget Process Governance Process
- The major items will be reported back through Council meeting reports.
- Unfortunately for many QLD Councils this is a common challenge "more than half of QLD Councils, continue to spend more delivering services to their community, than they receive in revenue from rates, charges and grants" QAO 2019-2020.
- "Not surprisingly the unrelenting challenge to do more with less ensured that the financial challenges of infrastructure, financial sustainability and stability lead the list of risk for local government" Aon 2018 Risk Report.

#### **Community Engagement Forum – November 2020**

Topic – Caravan Park Registration of Interest (ROI)

#### **Background**

- On the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at the Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved not to exercise the option of extending the current management agreement for the Jundah Caravan Park.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at the Ordinary Meeting, Council resolved to undertake a
  Registration of Interest (ROI) process for the operation and development of the Barcoo Shire
  Council Caravan Parks. This decision was undertaken primarily to market test the level of
  interest.
- Subsequently Council decided to include the Jundah Roadhouse with this ROI.
- Council commenced the ROI advertisement process on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 in various mediums including Council's website, newsletter, Longreach Leader, Courier Mail and a few LG tender portals.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at the Ordinary Meeting, Council considered a report which summarised the market testing of the ROI process. At the time of writing the Council report, nine ROI had been received, but subsequently three more were received by the Council meeting date. Subsequent to this Council has received further ROI's.
- Suffice to say there was a reasonable level of interest shown.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at the Ordinary Meeting Council resolved to proceed with tendering the management and / or operations of Council's Caravan Parks and Roadhouse.

#### **Current Status**

- Council has appointed an independent third party Probity Advisory Service in regard to this procurement activity. This contractor is Local Buy.
- This is to ensure the project is managed with the utmost integrity, avoid perceptions of bias / favouritism and contributes to an open and transparent process to protect the interest of all parties.
- As part of this process a Probity Plan will be compiled, as will an Evaluation Plan.
- An advertising process will be undertaken similar to the ROI process to ensure full openness and transparency.
- Market documentation will also be compiled for release in the Tender process. This
  information will be released in a manner which is compliant for best practice probity
  requirements. Council will manage this through its usual website tender medium.
- It should be noted canvassing of Councillors / Staff will automatically disqualify tenderers, so all enquiries will be directed through Council's website tender medium to ensure a robust process.
- At this early stage of the probity advisory service timeframes on tender advertising is unknown, as there are multiple steps in the tender procurement process that have to be undertaken before advertisement can occur.

#### **Community Engagement Forum – November 2020**

Topic – Jundah Roadhouse Registration of Interest (ROI)

#### **Background**

- On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at the Ordinary meeting, Council resolved to offer all income and operating matters to the current managers and negotiate a revised management fee.
- The managers wrote to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 providing 60 days notice to terminate the agreement due to terms on the management fee not being agreed by the parties.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at an informal meeting Council decided to include the Jundah Roadhouse with the Caravan Park ROI process. At the same time Council decided to move the Jundah Visitors Information Service to the Roadhouse whilst Council transitions the Roadhouse to new arrangements. This was confirmed and resolved by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
- From this point onwards the Jundah Roadhouse and Caravan Park have been a combined ROI process.

#### **Current Status**

• The Roadhouse ROI process now has the same status as the Caravan Park as previously outlined.

#### **HEART OF THE CHANNEL COUNTRY**

#### Feedback, Compliments and Concerns Form

Do you require a personal response from Council Yes

Council is committed to excellence in governance and providing quality services to our customers. Your feedback on our processes, decisions, service and staff, whether positive or negative, is important to us, and will be used to monitor and improve our service for the benefit of all of our customers.

Following the Community Consultation, if there is any additional feedback, compliments or concerns that you would like to raise that were not discussed, please complete the following form.

Forms are to be submitted to Council no later than Friday 11 December 2020 via the following:



6 Perkins Street PO Box 14 **JUNDAH QLD 4736** 

T: (07) 4658 6900 **F**: (07) 4658 6955 E: shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au W: www.barcoo.qld.gov.au

ABN: 34 668 298 330

the following,	,		ADN: 34 008 298 33
Email:	shire@barcoo.qld.gov.au		
Post:	PO Box 14, Jundah Qld 4736		
Hand Deliver:	6 Perkins Street, Jundah Qld 4736		
Optional only	<i>r</i> :		
Name:			
Address:			
Contact:			
What is the n	ature of this request?		
Feedback		Concern	
	e a personal response from Council	_	□No
What is the n	ature of this request?		
Feedback	Compliment	Concern	

No



What is the nature of this request?					
Feedback	Compliment	Concern			
Do you require a p	personal response from Cou	uncil 🗌 Yes	☐ No		
What is the natur		_			
Feedback	Compliment	Concern			
			•••••		
Do you require a p	personal response from Cou	uncil 🗌 Yes	☐ No		
What is the natur		_			
Feedback	Compliment	Concern			
			•••••		
Do you require a p	personal response from Cou	uncil 🗌 Yes	☐ No		

# QuickSmarts Regional Driving



In Australia, less than one third of the population lives in regional and remote areas, but nearly two thirds of all fatal road crashes occur on rural and remote roads.

When driving on roads in rural and remote areas there are some extra precautions worth being aware of – even if you're a local.

#### Slow down and drive to the conditions

Many regional roads have high speed limits. Remember speed limits aren't targets – they are the maximum a driver can safely travel in ideal conditions. Use your common sense and reduce your speed for the conditions. If conditions change, slow down – because the faster you go the less time you have to react to the unexpected.

# Be particularly careful in wet weather

If the roads are wet, be careful of slippery conditions and unstable road edges.

If you have to drive in wet weather:

- keep your windscreen and lights clean
- keep headlights on low beam. In foggy conditions, it is easier to see the low beam
- use fog lights if it is difficult to see other vehicles or objects
- use your air-conditioner or demister to keep the windscreen clear
- slow down
- avoid sudden braking, accelerating or turning to reduce your risk of skidding
- · double your following distance

If the weather is really bad pull over safely, have a rest and enjoy the hospitality of a regional town until the bad weather passes.

#### **Never drive through floodwater**

If you come across a road closed due to flooding, do not attempt to enter. Not only are you putting your life in danger – you'll also get fined. Even if it looks calm, no one can predict what floodwater will do or what's happened to the road underneath. Any amount of swift flowing water can sweep away your car, no matter what type of vehicle you drive. More than half of flood-related deaths are a result of people driving through floodwater, so remember: if it's flooded, forget it.

#### Driving on unsealed roads

In rural and remote areas, you may encounter gravel, sand or dirt roads. Driving on unsealed roads can be challenging – your tyres can lose traction, while loose dirt and gravel can be thrown up by other vehicles. Weather can also affect driving conditions on unsealed roads. Dry weather can create dusty conditions and limit your visibility, while wet weather can make roads muddy, slippery and boggy.

Keep yourself safe by slowing down, increasing your following distance, and adjusting your driving techniques to suit the conditions.

#### **Driving in dusty conditions**

Dusty conditions severely limit your visibility, to be safe:

- don't try and overtake other vehicles
- pull over safely, stop and wait for the visibility to improve
- turn on your lights so other vehicles can see you
- switch your aircon to recirculate so you don't get dust inside your vehicle.



#### Think about the time of day

Turn your headlights on between sunset and sunrise or when visibility is reduced—not only do you need good visibility to drive, other drivers also need to be able to see you.

If you're driving towards the west, the afternoon sun can affect your vision from 4pm. When the sun is low in the sky, clear vision is particularly difficult, meaning you might not see oncoming vehicles or animals.

When driving at night, be aware that many roads in rural and remote areas are unlit. If you have your high beams on, dip them within 200m of an oncoming vehicle. If another driver is dazzled by your lights, this could cause them to lose control or not be able to see ahead.

# Driving on mountain or range roads

When you drive on mountain or range roads:

- adjust your speed and take note of warning signs and road markings as these roads are often steep and have lots of bends
- pay extra attention to choosing the right gear to drive in, this will help to reduce over-use of your brakes
- allow extra following distance, in case some vehicles struggle to maintain their speed up steep climbs, and only overtake if it is safe and legal to do so
- take extra care if you are following large vehicles on up-hill and down-hill sections of roads.

# Don't drive tired – even if you know the road like the back of your hand

Long distances and stretches of unchanging landscape can make a driver very tired. Take a break at least every two hours and watch for signs of fatigue:

- · drifting in the lane or over lane lines
- · changing speed without reason
- yawning
- · blinking more than usual
- notice your eyes closing for a moment or going out of focus
- · feeling drowsy, tired or exhausted
- · having trouble keeping your head up
- don't remember the previous few minutes of driving
- experience slower reaction times
- · 'microsleeping'.

#### Share the road

# Sharing the road with wildlife and cattle

- Wildlife particularly kangaroos are more active at dawn and dusk. If you encounter an animal on the road, don't swerve to avoid it as this can cause you to roll your vehicle. Gently brake and slow down and use your horn to alert the animal.
- Cattle and sheep might stand in the middle of the road to watch you approach. If they do, stop and be patient, use your horn and the animal will soon move off the road.

# Sharing the road with heavy vehicles and road trains

Trucks and road trains are a common sight in many rural and remote areas. Road trains comprise a large truck pulling up to three trailers. Australia has the longest and heaviest road-legal road trains in the world weighing up to 200 tonnes and stretching over 50 metres in length.

Road trains are restricted to 90km/h in Queensland, so you may want to overtake them. Just make sure you have enough time – 50 metres, remember! And only overtake when the road markings indicate you can AND it is safe to do so.

Before you overtake a long vehicle or road train:

- allow yourself enough time to overtake
- stay back at the recommended following distance without crossing the centre line when preparing to overtake (remember, heavy vehicles need longer to stop, so it's a good idea to increase your following distance around heavy vehicles)
- look out for soft shoulders, guide posts and wildlife.

When it's safe to overtake:

- indicate, accelerate, and overtake quickly without exceeding the speed limit. Changing down a gear may give you enough engine power to get past
- maintain your speed so the truck or road train does not have to brake after you overtake
- never overtake a turning vehicle.

NEVER try and overtake a truck or road train in dusty conditions – you won't be able to see what's ahead. If you come up behind a slow-moving long vehicle hang back out of the dust, be patient or stop and take an early break.

If you come across a truck or road train going in the opposite direction that's raising dust, slow down, get off the road, stop and wait until its gone past.

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